FREE – TAKE ONE

# The Romulus News

MAY 18, 2000 – MAY 31, 2000 "the little paper" VOLUME 13 NUMBER 21

## Teachers, Board Approve Three-Year Contract

Celebrating a recently approved contract for Romulus Community Schools teachers are (from left) Terry Bird (teacher, union representative), Ed Clark (new Director of Human Resources), Dr. Samuel La Monica (retiring Director of Human Resources), Fred Schwarze (Board attorney), Jim Orme (teacher, union president), and Joel Carr (new Superintendent of Schools). For story, see page 7.

## *Timely Tidbits ...*

### City Compiles List of Rummage-sale Sites

To make it easier for bargain-hunters to find the 125 households taking part in the annual City-wide rummage sale – set for Thursday, June 1, through Sunday, June 4 – the Romulus Recreation Department has compiled a list of all the addresses. Please see page 7 of this issue for the complete list.

### Scientific Forum

Congresswoman Lynn Rivers invites you to attend a "Scientific Breakthroughs and Bioethics" forum, to be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, at Washtenaw Community College (Morris Lawrence Building, Room 103, 4800 East Huron River Drive, in Ann Arbor).

For more information, please call 734-485-3741.

### Free Tennis Clinic

The Romulus Recreation Department is sponsoring a free one-day tennis lesson for students ages five and up. To register for this class – which will be held at Romulus High School on Saturday, June 3, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. – please stop in at the Recreation Office (located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus).

### Immunization Fair

Romulus Community Schools – in collaboration with the Romulus Adolescent Health Center and Oakwood Healthcare Outreach – will host two immunization fairs during the coming summer.

- Thursday, June 22
  9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
  Cory Elementary School;
- Thursday, August 24
  9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
  Merriman Elementary School.

All vaccinations ($2 each) will be available at each clinic. In order for a child to be immunized, his or her parent must be present, and must bring a copy of the child's shot record.

For more information, call Laura Ralko at 734-941-0272. ❑

## Foley Named New Assistant Principal at RHS

Don Foley

At its May 8 meeting, the Romulus Board of Education approved the appointment of Don Foley as the new Assistant Principal of Romulus High School. He will assume his new position immediately, replacing Mel Kimbrough, who was recently appointed Principal of Romulus Middle School.

Foley has been a Romulus Schools employee since 1971, spending his first 16 years as a math and industrial arts teacher at both the old Romulus Junior High and the new Junior High (as the Middle School was then called) before moving to the High School to teach math for the next 13 years. He was also a temporary Assistant Principal at the Junior High on four separate occasions, including a period in 1992 when classes were taught at Wayne County Community College so that renovation work could be completed at the Junior High.

Foley also enjoyed a lengthy coaching career. During 28 years in football and 25 years in baseball, he was head coach of the High School's varsity baseball team for nine years, its varsity football team for four years, and the Junior High's football team for 14 years. He also coached Junior High basketball for boys and girls as well as girls' volleyball.

He has both a B.S. in math and an M.A. in secondary curriculum from Eastern Michigan University. ❑

## Bales Appointed Executive Secretary to Carr

Longtime Romulus Schools employee Carole Bales was recently appointed to the position of executive secretary to the Superintendent. She will begin her new duties on July 1, replacing the retiring Doreen McEvilly.

"I will have some tough shoes to fill, as Doreen was a 'natural' for the job," said Bales. "She has been a great co-worker and a dear friend, and will be greatly missed.

"I'm looking forward to the challenges of this new venture," she continued. "I have always enjoyed working with the students, parents, and staff in the schools, and I'm looking forward to working with Superintendent Joel Carr and the Romulus Board of Education."

Bales began her career in the Romulus Schools as a Special Services secretary in 1978, then moved to Wick Elementary, where she was the school secretary for 19 years. She became the executive secretary to Dr. Samuel La Monica, Director of Human Resources, in 1997 – the same year that she received the District's Apple Award for recognition of excellence.

Bales' love for Romulus and its residents is evidenced by her involvement in a wide variety of groups and organizations that are dedicated to community service.

*continued on page 4*

Carole Bales

# Letters to the Editor

*Editor's note: All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request if, in our opinion, the letter's content merits anonymity.*

The Romulus News *reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.*

## Chaperone Impressed

Dear Romulus School Board:

I would like to tell you what a wonderful time I had with Mr. Dennis Stoh's AP World History class that went to Florida in March. (As a parent of one of the students, I went along as a chaperone.)

Those students were a great bunch of kids. They really impressed me with how polite and considerate they all were. There were 16 students and they all got along very well with each other.

Whenever we rode the buses and an older person or an adult with a small child or even a woman got on the bus, only to find all the seats full, the boys would automatically get up and offer their seats. The adults on the trip never suggested anything. They even offered their seats to me.

I cannot say enough about those students or their manners. They were truly a great bunch of kids and they really impressed me a great deal.

Sincerely,
Linda A. Ryznar
Romulus

## Sullivan Ideas: Déjà Vu?

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As a concerned citizen, taxpayer, and lifelong resident of Wayne County, I am more than a little surprised at some items in recent publications regarding the current Wayne County Commissioner for the 11th District [John J. Sullivan].

Since I have been interested in government basically my whole life, I cannot help but sense a déjà vu in some statements made by the current Commissioner. Canton Township Trustee Melissa McLaughlin quite eloquently proposed ideas such as the opening of a Western Wayne County satellite office two years ago. Now this Commissioner is pretending that it is his idea.

I also am not impressed by the Commissioner's boast of "having attended more than 300 meetings in 1999 alone." Any fifth-grader knows that 300 meetings works out to less than one meeting per day for one year! This is what the taxpayers of Western Wayne County receive for the taxes they pay?

As for the boasts of bringing more dollars to the district in terms of road improvements, I ask the question: Is it any easier to drive down Ford Road (Canton), Bemis Road (Sumpter/Van Buren), or Hannan Road (Huron/Romulus) now than it was two years ago?

There must be a better answer.

Sincerely,
Rob Bovitz, CPA
Canton ❑

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Since 1993, the City of Romulus has been engaged in a lawsuit against Environmental Disposals Systems. Last fall, the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled in EDS' favor, saying that the City's ordinances cannot stop the EDS well project.

Predicting that EDS will probably win its $100-million damages suit against the City, as well, attorneys for the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (the firm that insured the City for this case) strongly advised the City to enter into a settlement agreement with EDS. Unfortunately, our City Council members ignored their own attorneys' advice and voted against a settlement, causing the MMRMA to cancel our liability insurance!

We, the taxpayers, have already spent more than $1 million in legal costs to date. We, the taxpayers, will have to pay the additional $100 million when EDS wins its lawsuit – an average of about $7,500 per household!

Our City services are already suffering. How much more money are we willing to waste in this losing battle?

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# The Editor's Opinion

## Council's Nix of EDS Settlement Shows Reckless Disregard for Taxpayers' Wallets

*By Kristi Stephens*

Which is more important: my immediate political future, or the long-term good of my community and its citizens?

That's a question that all seven members of the Romulus City Council answered on May 2, 2000 – whether they realized it or not.

Because of their unanimous vote to reject a settlement between the City and Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. (EDS), you – the taxpayers of Romulus – may soon be responsible for paying EDS up to $100 million in reparation and damages.

This isn't just my opinion; it's also the opinion of the attorneys at Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), the insurance provider that recently canceled the City's liability coverage in this matter because of City Council's reckless refusal to heed the firm's legal advice.

In an April 6 letter to Mayor William Oakley, MMRMA Executive Director Rufus L. Nye wrote, "At this time, I am of the opinion that there is a high probability that trial will result in a plaintiff verdict . . . It is my recommendation therefore, that the City of Romulus approve settlement of this case . . .

"Because the potential for a judgment . . . adverse to the City . . . is too great to ignore," he continued, "it is clearly in the best interests of the City and the MMRMA to accept this proposed settlement."

Nye concluded, "This letter is to formally advise you that if the City of Romulus exercises its right to reject the proposed settlement . . . then the MMRMA will invoke the Member Privilege provision." (Invoking that provision leaves the City responsible for all future legal defense costs as well as all subsequent judgment or settlement amounts that exceed the rejected proposed settlement amount.)

To those of you who argue that $100 million would be money well spent to protect our city's residents from a serious threat to their health, safety, and welfare, I say that I agree . . . but EDS' proposed hazardous-waste treatment, storage, and disposal facility poses no such threat. In fact, it would represent no more risk than many other Romulus businesses that you and I pass every day without a second thought. Despite the seemingly ominous implications of the word "hazardous," the law would prohibit EDS from injecting radioactive materials, flammable or explosive chemicals, or PCBs into its well. In fact, most liquids that would be injected would be 90% to 95% water. (You wouldn't want to drink them or bathe in them, but an accidental spill from a tanker truck wouldn't require a mass evacuation, either.)

Again, this isn't just my opinion; it's the opinion of experts from all over our nation – qualified scientists connected with state and federal agencies, reputable environmental companies, and respected universities.

But most frustrating of all is the fact that, even if the Michigan Supreme Court decides against EDS and its $100-million claim, it *still* won't keep EDS from filing additional damage claims or from operating a deep-well in our city. Last fall, the Michigan Court of Appeals reversed a Circuit Court injunction against the company's Wahrman Road site. And the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's decision regarding a proposed facility on Citrin Drive will be announced any day now.

In a nutshell: There's little (if anything) to gain . . . *and everything to lose.*

Although a copy of the most recent settlement proposal is not yet available to the public, one local source confirmed that it made ample provision for the health and financial welfare of the City's residents. Besides an annual royalty payment of $300,000 for the next five years (and even more for the remainder of the facility's operational life), the agreement would have mitigated potential safety hazards identified at recent Site Review Board meetings.

Among the concerns reportedly addressed were noise and air pollution, spill prevention/control, monitoring programs for area drinking-water wells and aquifers, additional independent monitoring of the facility (at no cost to the City), emergency access routes, emergency readiness training for local fire and police (again, at no cost to the City), and provisions for adequate water supplies. The agreement also would have required EDS to acquire a minimum of $10 million in liability insurance and adequate bonds to cover the cost of capping the well when the facility eventually closes.

The whole issue seems like a no-brainer to me. But, then again, I'm not a politician who's afraid that a few dozen hard-core well opponents will scare the rest of the voters with misinformation.

Once again, I urge City Council to put reason ahead of ignorance, and the future good of the community above immediate political expediency. Settle with EDS before the taxpayers are forced to settle a bill that they can't afford. ❑

# Retirement Celebration Raises $9,000+ for Boys & Girls Club

**(From left) Boys and Girls Club representatives Nick Papadas and Frank Rigger present mementos of thanks to Romulus Community Schools retirees Doreen McEvilly (executive secretary) and Dr. William Bedell (Superintendent). At the honorees' request, those who attended made donations to the Club in lieu of personal gifts, raising over $9,000.**

On Thursday, May 4, more than 250 well-wishers attended a retirement luncheon at the Crowne Plaza to recognize Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools, and his administrative secretary, Doreen McEvilly. Attendees included current and former School Board members, administrators, teachers, and support staff, as well as various state, regional, and local officials.

Bedell – who spent 23 years in the Livonia Schools before coming to Romulus in 1980 – was especially honored by the presence of five former members of Livonia's Board of Education as well as the City's current mayor, Jack Kirksey.

Raymond E. Basham, State Representative for the 22nd District, presented Bedell and McEvilly with House resolutions that lauded the many accomplishments of their lengthy careers, and spoke of the high esteem that is accorded the Romulus school district statewide.

Also on hand to address the audience were Bedell's son Brad and McEvilly's son Mike. The two men expressed great pride in the achievements of their respective parents, and shared stories about what it was like growing up in busy but loving families.

At the request of both Bedell and McEvilly, guests were asked to make a financial contribution to the Romulus Boys and Girls Club, rather than bring gifts to them personally. The total contribution of more than $9,000 was graciously accepted by various Club representatives who were present to honor the retirees, including Nick Papadas, Frank Rigger, and John Juriga. ❑

## Bales

*continued from page 1*

Her school contributions include service on the Finance, Climate, Social, and School Improvement committees, in addition to active participation in all District millage and bond-issue proposals over the past 20 years. She is also a past President of the Merriman Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and a member of the Romulus Area PTA Council.

City commitments included work on various boards and committees, including those for Canvassing, Compensation, Community Market, Recreation, Beautification, and various festivals.

At the Community United Methodist Church, she was involved in Sunday School instruction, and was also a chairperson of committees dealing with Nurture and Care plus Outreach Programs.

Bales and husband Dan have been married for 37 years. Their three grown children are Bob, Brian, and Becky. ❑

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# Around Our School District

Thalia Swint (left), personal-finance teacher at Romulus High School, receives a $1,700 check from Mary Stolle of the MEEMIC Insurance Co. to fund a new personal-finance center (complete with financial texts and magazines, software, and videotapes) at the school.

Among the hundreds of people who visited Cory Elementary School for the annual Grandparents Day program were (from left) Herman and Lovell West, great-grandparents of fourth-grader Cameron Jackson, as well as his grandmother, Laverne Jackson.

Middle School Symphonic Band Director Mark Fernandez (back, left) congratulated first-chair students (from left, front row) Lajoya Orr, Lindsey Ransaw, and Jessica Shelton, and (back row) Kiera Wilson and Ahmad Caldwell after the band received a first-division rating at the District Band Festival.

Sheila Stasak, physical education teacher, led an all-school workout on Tuesday, May 2, as Barth and the district's other elementaries joined schools from around the world to take part in ACES (all children exercising simultaneously). The program was endorsed by the President's Council on Physical Fitness, among other organizations.

Board of Education President Michael Woods (right) introduced aspiring attorney Christopher Quinn – a guest speaker at the National Honor Society's annual induction ceremony – to honorees (from left) Amber Barnes, Andrea Coate, and Jasmine Mark.

Romulus Police Officer Alan Lambert presented "Be Safe" coloring books and videos to three-year-olds at My Friends and Me Child Care Center, including (from left) Heather Kitchen, Jeremy Frayer, Kenneth McCurdy, and Devon Lindros during a safety presentation at the Center.

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## ATTENTION, BARGAIN HUNTERS!

Approximately 125 households are taking part in a City-wide rummage sale set for Thursday, June 1, through Sunday, June 4. (If two or more of the four dates are rained out, the event will be postponed to June 8–11.) For your convenience, the City compiled a list of sale sites, organizing it by geographic area to make possibly unfamiliar streets easier to find.

Numbers in parentheses refer to sale dates:
**1=Thurs., June 1; 2=Fri.,June 2; 3=Sat., June 3; 4=Sun., June 4**

**Cogswell Road (Ecorse Road to Van Born Road) Area**
6351 Heyer (1, 2, 3)
6361 Heyer (2, 3, 4)

**Van Born Road to I-94/Wayne Road to Inkster Road Area**
6916 Ball (1, 2, 3, 4)
30778 Beverly (3, 4)
35276 Beverly (1, 2, 3, 4)
32195 Bruce (3, 4)
6179 Central (2, 3, 4)
27880 Ecorse (1, 2, 3, 4)
28112 Ecorse (1, 2, 3, 4)
35209 Ecorse (1, 2, 3, 4)
6076 Fourth (3, 4)
6200 Fourth (1, 2, 3, 4)
6559 Gloria (2, 3, 4)
6717 Middlebelt (1, 2, 3, 4)
5892 Second (1, 2, 3, 4)
6430 Washington (1, 2, 3, 4)
6689 Washington (1, 2, 3, 4)
6031 Wayne (2, 3)

**South Wayne Road/McDonald's Area**
9403 Barry (2, 3)
9360 Biddle (1, 2, 3, 4)
9249 Chamberlain (3, 4)
9404 Chamberlain (3, 4)
9324 Essex (1, 2, 3, 4)
9521 Essex (3, 4)
9648 Essex (2, 3, 4)
9672 Essex (2, 3)
34596 Julie (1, 2, 3, 4)
34886 Julie (1, 2, 3, 4)
34980 Julie (1, 2, 3)
9441 Karen (2, 3, 4)
9317 Lisa (2, 3, 4)
9413 Lisa (2, 3)
34348 Lynn (1, 2, 3, 4)
34360 Lynn (1, 2, 3, 4)
9622 Marc (2, 3, 4)
34224 McBride (3, 4)
9726 Michael (1, 2, 3)
35541 Ronald (1, 2, 3, 4)
34754 Stewart (1, 2, 3, 4)
34868 Stewart (3)
9361 Washington (1, 2, 3)
9282 Wayne (1, 2, 3, 4)
9322 Wayne (1, 2, 3, 4)

**Hannan Road to Wayne Road/Ecorse Road to I-94 Area**
35480 Mary (1, 2, 3, 4)
35741 Mary (1, 2, 3, 4)
36462 McBride (2, 3, 4)
36680 McBride (1, 2, 3, 4)
9429 Cogswell (1, 2, 3)
36723 Herman (1, 2, 3, 4)
36809 Herman (2, 3)
36950 Herman (2, 3, 4)
37008 Herman (2, 3, 4)
37011 Herman (1, 2, 3, 4)
37500 Herman (2, 3, 4)
36730 Menton (2, 3, 4)
36812 Menton (1, 2, 3, 4)
10275 Ozga (3)
35636 Ronald (1, 2, 3)
9324 Tobine (1, 2, 3, 4)
9505 Tobine (2, 3)
38500 Tyler (1, 2, 3, 4)
8631 Wahrman (1, 2, 3, 4)
9480 Wayne (1, 2, 3, 4)
35771 Wick (3, 4)
35825 Wick (2, 3, 4)
35971 Wick (1, 2, 3, 4)
Wellesley Townhouses/Smith (1, 2, 3, 4)

**Hannan Road/Huron River Drive Area**
38770 Huron River (1, 2, 3, 4)
39213 Huron River (1, 2, 3, 4)

**Hannan Road/I-94 Area**
39140 Chase (1, 2, 3)

**Mt. Pleasant School Area**
13199 Hannan (3, 4)
39263 Superior (1, 2, 3)
38828 Wade (2, 3, 4)

**Huron Estates Subdivision Area**
13536 Aston (1, 2, 3, 4)
37430 Castle (1, 2, 3, 4)
37613 Castle (1, 2, 3)
37749 Castle (3, 4)
38309 Castle (2, 3)
39320 Wabash (1, 2, 3, 4)
37457 Walnut (2, 3, 4)
37800 Westvale (1, 2)
38055 Westvale (2, 3, 4)

**Huron River Drive (Eureka Road to Pennsylvania Road) Area**
14500 Huron River (1, 2, 3)
14825 Huron River (1, 2, 3, 4)
15716 Huron River (1, 2, 3, 4)
16505 Huron River (1, 2, 3, 4)

**Downtown Romulus Area**
36633 Bibbins (2, 3, 4)
12125 Craig (1, 2, 3, 4)
11356 Delano (2, 3)
36800 Ferndale (1, 2, 3, 4)
36883 Ferndale (1, 2, 3, 4)
36900 Ferndale (1, 2, 3)
36915 Ferndale (3, 4)
11156 Gabriel (2, 3, 4)
36755 Goddard (1, 2, 3)
35585 Grant (1, 2, 3, 4)
10068 Miriam (1, 2, 3, 4)
11563 Olive (1, 2, 3, 4)
36886 Porter (1, 2, 3)
37056 Porter (2, 3, 4)
37065 Porter (2, 3, 4)
36744 Romulus (1, 2, 3, 4)
11495 Wahrman (3)
12080 Wayne (1, 2, 3, 4)

**Oakbrook Subdivision Area**
15486 Anthony (2, 3)
30294 Cherry (1, 2, 3, 4)
15433 Colbert (1, 2, 3, 4)
15347 Collins (2, 3, 4)
15449 Collins (1, 2, 3, 4)
30166 Jamestown (1, 3, 4)
30523 Leroy (3, 4)
16266 Oak Tree (2, 3, 4)
15545 Sandburg (1, 2, 3, 4)
15617 Sandburg (3)
30000 Spain (2, 3, 4)
15411 Taft (3)
15759 Taft (3, 4)
29252 Whisper (3, 4)

**Halecreek Subdivision Area**
28485 Greenview (1, 2, 3, 4)
28440 Halecreek (1, 2, 3, 4)
13310 Harrison (3, 4)
15547 Harrison (2, 3, 4)
15753 Meadow (1, 2, 3, 4)
28162 Meadowhill (1, 2, 3, 4)
15825 Ridgebrook (1, 2, 3, 4)
15909 Ridgebrook (1, 2, 3, 4)
15858 Springhill (3, 4)
15115 Woodmont (1, 2, 3, 4)

**Goddard Road/Middlebelt Road Area**
28536 Goddard (2, 3, 4)

**Goddard Road to Eureka Road**
11240 Inkster (1, 2, 3, 4)
13575 Harrison (1, 2, 3, 4)

**Middlebelt Road/Pennsylvania Road Area**
30204 Pennsylvania (3, 4)

# Teachers, Board of Education Agree on Three-year Contract

Romulus teachers and the Wayne County Education Association have reached an agreement with the Romulus Board of Education on a new three-year contract. The contract was ratified by the teachers on Tuesday, May 9, and by a unanimous vote of the Board on Wednesday, May 10.

Joel Carr, incoming Superintendent, was very pleased with the contract.

"This will enable us to get off to an excellent start for the next school year," he stated. "Our district has so many positive things happening already. This agreement will enable us to build upon our successes and continue with our outstanding programs in order to meet the educational needs of the Romulus community."

According to Carr, the new contract calls for:

- raises of 3.65% for the 1999–2000 school year; 2.5% for 2000–2001; and 2.5% for 2001–2002.
- a 185-day school calendar.
- a five-minute-longer school day for the duration of the contract.
- more teacher in-service training time.

These changes will enable the District to meet increased State of Michigan requirements that will take effect during the 2000–2001 school year.

Other adjustments to the school calendar will include students returning to school during the last week of August instead of the Wednesday after Labor Day, as well as a slightly shortened Christmas vacation period. ❑


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# MASB Recognizes District for Community Compact Initiative

**"Paws" (the Detroit Tigers mascot) joined Phyllis Adkins, Principal of Cory Elementary and Chairperson of the District's Compact Committee, to share some fun with Cory students at the school's recent "Parent Softball/Picnic Night." Sponsored by Parents That Care, the event was just one of many parent-community-school activities that have brought recognition and awards to Romulus schools.**

The Romulus school district's thriving "School/Community Compact Initiative" was named one of the State's best during the recent Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) 2000 Education Excellence Awards Program.

Judges chose the compact to receive the Education Excellence Award in the multilevel/district-wide category, Region 8.

Accordingly, both the district and Cory Elementary School Principal Phyllis Adkins (who is also the Chairperson of the Compact Committee) were honored at the MASB's Region 8 Dinner, held Tuesday, May 9, at Lincoln Park Middle School.

Adkins and Romulus Community Schools Superintendent Joel Carr made a special presentation to the 200+ area school-board members who were in attendance, explaining how the Romulus compact program works.

Adkins' leadership role in the area of school/community interaction has also earned her the $25,000 Milken Award, which she flew to Los Angeles last summer to accept.

MASB Executive Director Justin King has invited the Romulus Schools to share this most successful concept with other board members from across Michigan at a statewide conference this fall.

## ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174**

### ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

Our school district has conducted an extensive asbestos survey of all of our buildings. Considering the findings of this inspection, a comprehensive management plan was drafted. This plan details the response actions that the district will be taking regarding asbestos-containing materials found in our buildings.

This plan is available for inspection at our offices without cost or restriction during normal business hours. If you desire to have a personal copy, please notify the Administrative Offices and it will be supplied to you within five working days at a cost of $.30 per page.

Our Administrative Offices are located at 36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174.

We have endeavored to make our schools a safe place in which students can learn. Our procedures for dealing with this problem reflect that concern. Please let us know if we can answer any questions.

Donald Morris, Supervisor
Maintenance and Operations

## ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

**36540 Grant Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174**

### REGULAR MEETING, APRIL 10, 2000

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, April 10, 2000, was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by President Betty M. Lenossi.

Roll call showed all members present. All administrators were present.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Lenossi.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**4/00/1** Moved by Woods supported by Lambert to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**4/00/2** Moved by Lambert supported by Dick to approve the Minutes of March 27, 2000, as presented. Ayes: 6. Nays: 0. Abstain: 1 (Webb). Motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

***Personnel Actions***

Dr. Samuel B. La Monica, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel action to the Board of Education: Carole Bales, Secretary to the Superintendent, Effective July 1, 2000.

***Bills for Payment***

**4/00/3** Moved by Lambert supported by Webb to approve the Bills for Payment as submitted by Mr. Joel R. Carr, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

***Fine Arts Report – Henry James and Nancy McLellan***

Messrs. James, Fernandez, and Allen, and Mesdames Barthwell, Wilson, Raney, and Meyers updated the Board of Education on the status and accomplishments of the current music curriculum. They also responded to questions posed by members of the Board of Education.

Mesdames McClellan, Fraley, and Smith presented information concerning the District's continuing art program and plans for the future.

***Charles Thompson Resolution***

**4/00/4** Moved by Berlinn supported by Webb that the Board accept the recommendation of Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, and approve the attached resolution of congratulations to our State Champion wrestler, Charles Thompson. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

***Discussion of New Sport***

Mr. Jason Kahler, Coach, was present to discuss the possibility of adding a boys' lacrosse team at the High School. No action was taken.

***Communications and Expressions from the Public***

Members of the audience voiced their concerns and posed questions to members of the Board of Education relative to the operation of the School District.

***Items of Interest from the Superintendent***

Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Wendy's Art Program; 2) SEMCA – Thanks to Dolan and Lawthorn; 3) Charter Schools – Funding Issues; 4) Thanks to Ms. Notaro; 5) Metro Dinner; and 6) Annual Governorn's Service Award – Tom Gibb-Randall.

***Questions and/or Concerns of Board Members***

Mrs. Debbie Dick requested that a resolution be prepared for the meeting of May 8, 2000, for Tom Gibb-Randall.

***Executive Session – Negotiations***

**4/00/5** Moved by Woods supported by Lambert that the Board convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations. Roll call vote showed: Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened in Executive Session at 7:27 P.M. and reconvened in Regular Session at 8:17 P.M.

***Personnel Actions – Lay-off***

**4/00/6** Moved by Woods supported by McCraight that the Board of Education accept the recommendation of Dr. William M. Bedell, Superintendent, and lay off the teachers listed for the 2000–2001 school year and not renew their contract after June 16, 2000. It is further resolved that the records show that the reasons for this action are as follows: lack of student enrollment and the elimination of one social-worker position for the 2000–2001 school year. Be it further resolved that the Board of Education direct the Secretary of the Board to send a letter to the individuals listed below officially notifying them that their teaching contract will not be renewed at the end of the 1999–2000 school year, and that they will be laid off as teacher and social worker in the Romulus Community Schools. Clinton Chico, Seniority Date 9/7/99, and Elana Vrettas, Seniority Date 11/29/99. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Abstain: 0. Motion carried.

***Personnel Actions – Termination***

**4/00/7** Moved by McCraight supported by Lambert that, in accordance with the recommendation of the Administration, the services of probationary teacher (Lisabeth Mikolajczyk, Lisa Kahler, and Gloria Williams) be discontinued, and that they be terminated as employees effective June 16, 2000, because their work has not been satisfactory. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Abstain: 0. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**4/00/8** Moved by Webb supported by Lambert that the meeting be adjourned. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth E. Berlinn, Secretary
Romulus Board of Education

# Community Calendar

- **Seniors To Host Rummage Sale** – Kitchen and household items, clothing, craft items, books, kids' items, and more will be available at the Romulus Senior Center's annual rummage sale, to be held at the Center (located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus) on Friday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 734-942-6852.
- **Poetry Night at Borders** – Borders Books and Music–Dearborn invites the public to attend its next Poetry Night program, set for Thursday, May 25, at 7 p.m. The first 10 people to sign up for the event will receive a $5 gift certificate after reading their poetry. For more information, call Armina Duenas, Community Relations Coordinator, at 313-271-4441.
- **Trail Ride Benefits St. Judes** – A "Saddle Up Trail Ride" – to be held at Ravenwood Stables (located at 2903 West Newburg Road in Carleton) on Sunday, June 11, at 11 a.m. sharp – will benefit St. Judes Children's Research Hospital. Riders collecting $75 will receive a T-shirt and sports bag; collectors of $125 will receive the T-shirt and bag plus a sweatshirt. For information, call Ravenwood: 734-654-0100 (office) or 654-7925 (barn).
- **Summer Youth Workshops** – Macomb Center for the Performing Arts is currently accepting registrations for the following youth workshops: ***Drama*** (July 17–21; $55 for grades 1–2, $85 for grades 3–12), ***Instrumental Jazz*** (July 24–28; $125 for grades 8–12), ***Piano*** (July 30–August 4; $150 for all levels of proficiency, ages 7–18), and ***Show Choir*** (August 6–12; $190 for grades 7 and up). For more information, call 810-286-2141.
- **Crafters Wanted** – The City of Romulus is seeking crafters who would like to participate in the annual National Night Out program, set for Saturday, July 29, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the City of Romulus Recreation/Senior Citizen Center at 734-942-6852.
- **Romulus Police Host Charity Golf Outing** – The Romulus Police Officers Association invites you to take part in its second annual Charity Golf Outing, set for Friday, August 4, at Shady Hollow Golf Course (34777 Smith Road, Romulus). The event, with its four-person-scramble format, will begin with registration at 7 a.m., followed by an 8 a.m. shotgun start. A donation of $70 per person covers 18 holes of golf, a golf cart, and a golf shirt, as well as door prizes, lunch, a steak dinner, and beer and pop. Early registration is advised, since this event sold out quickly last year. For more information, contact Officer Mike St. Andre or Officer Duane Smith at 734-941-8400.
- **Chamber Hosts Annual Golf Outing** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce invites you to take part in its annual Golf Outing/Fund-raiser, set for Monday, August 28, at Willow Metro Golf Course. The event, with its four-person-scramble format, will begin with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. A donation of $380 per foursome (no refunds) covers 18 holes of golf, a golf cart, refreshments on the course, and a steak dinner at the Romulus Progressive Club afterward, as well as cash and prize awards (teams with pros are not eligible for cash prizes or skins). Hole sponsors ($90 each), door-prize donations, and volunteer workers are also welcome! For more information, call the Chamber's office: 734-326-4290.
- **Sweet Adelines International Seeks Singers** – Would you like to be part of a harmonious blending of voices singing a variety of music arranged in four-part harmony, barbershop style? Then the all-woman County Connection Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is for you. Rehearsals are held at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at UAW Local #898 (8975 Textile Road, Ypsilanti). Visit the group's website, www.sweetadelines.org, or call 734-480-8843.
- **Head Start Seeks Students** – The Romulus Head Start Program is now registering eligible three- and four-year-old children for the 2000–2001 school year. This free preschool program, held at Beverly School (35408 Beverly Road), serves children from low-income families, foster children, and children with disabilities. For more information, call 734-727-9920.
- **Class Reunion** – Westland John Glenn High School's Class of 1975 will host its 25-year reunion on Saturday, September 16, at Vladimir's (28125 Grand River, Farmington Hills). Registration deadline is Thursday, August 24. Cost is $45 per person. Call Joyce McDonald Panyard at 734-260-0620 or e-mail Tony Amorose at Amoroset@aol.com.

*To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 941-4874; or call 941-1907 or 941-3113*

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# Annual Law Day Was Best Ever

**Chief Judge Tina Brooks-Green of the 34th District Court (right) coaches student Crystal Renton, the mock judge in this year's Law Day program.**

The 34th District Court hosted its annual Law Day program on Friday, May 5. Represented this year were 36 Romulus High School students from Rod Hanna's government class, as well as senior citizens from Romulus and Huron Township, Romulus Police Officer Jeff Lazarski, and attorneys Tom White (Belleville), Steve Robinson (Romulus), Robert Coutts (Belleville), and Mike DiPietro (Belleville).

Chief Judge Tina Brooks-Green and Judge Brian A. Oakley opened up their courtrooms for the mock trial, and were on hand to help with legal rulings.

This year's scenario – reportedly the best ever – was written by White, who has been involved with the Court's Law Day program since its inception.

"This is the most interesting case we've ever had," said Program regular Margaret Maciejewski. "Attorney White has done a marvelous job."

Officer Lazarski commented, "This is the first time that I've been involved in a program like this, but I can already see that it's a great experience for everyone. You get a firsthand look at the legal process and gain a better understanding of what it involves.

"You also get to see that police officers aren't the bad guys," he added.

From the bench, student judge Crystal Renton announced, "This is not as easy as it looks on TV, though the chair is very comfortable and the robes are not too hot. I did find it hard to keep my mouth shut when I felt that someone was lying or saying something wrong!"

Linda Norman, Senior Citizen Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, had no idea how popular the Law Day program would become when she got her seniors involved four years ago.

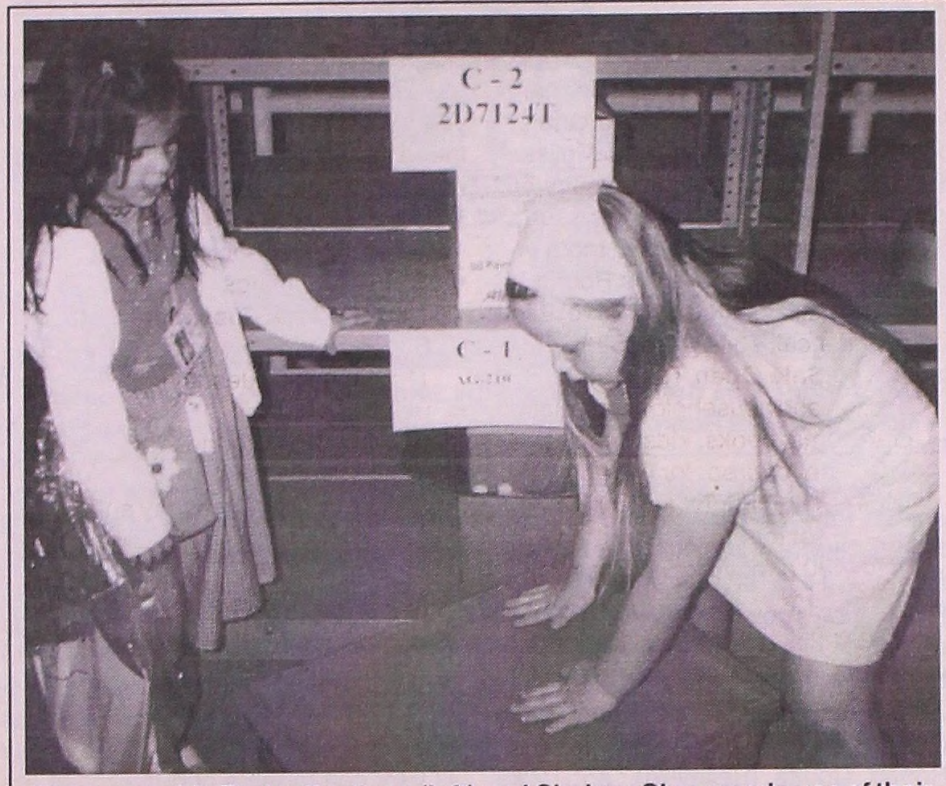
"I have never heard anything but praise for it," she said. "This year, Huron was able to join us; next year, we hope that Belleville can participate, too.

"Thanks to Judges Green and Oakley, Officer Lazarski, and the attorneys who donated their time. Special thanks to Tom White for a great scenario." ❑

## *Easter Egg Hunt Was Egg-citing*

**On Saturday, April 22, the rain stopped long enough for the Easter Bunny to make an appearance before the 250+ kids (age eight and under) who took part in the City's annual Egg Hunt, held at Elmer Johnson Park.**

# Allegiance Healthcare Workers Bring Their Kids To Work




**Five-year-olds Taylor Kerrigan (left) and Chelsea Slone made use of their teamwork skills to "put away inventory" and "pick/pack orders" in a mock warehouse setup that was established especially for youngsters taking part in "Bring Your Child To Work Day" at Allegiance Healthcare.**

On Thursday, April 27, Allegiance Healthcare Corporation hosted its fourth annual "Bring Your Child To Work Day." The company provided hands-on activities – from work simulations to games – for approximately 40 children ranging from toddlers to teens. The company, which distributes medical and surgical supplies throughout the United States, employs around 100 people at its local operations. Products from Romulus are distributed to healthcare providers throughout Michigan.

This year's coordinators, Christy DeMaggio and Crystal Oliver, mixed business with pleasure for their guests, teaching the children about the world of work by employing a vacation/beach theme for the event. As guests signed in at the welcome desk, they had their pictures taken for a "passport photo," received a "travel guide" that detailed the day's events, and were given a Hawaiian lei that designated the appropriate tour for each child, based on age.

After registration, the children enjoyed a morning snack and were welcomed by Phil Kelly, the facility's operations manager. Tour guides DeMaggio, Oliver, and Ray Bonello led the children to the "destinations" (each named in accordance with the event's theme) that were set up throughout the distribution facility. The three groups rotated among the tour stops and had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of experiences.

Guests learned how to fill out job applications and witnessed a mock interview that was followed by a vote for the best-qualified applicant. They also learned the importance of knowing how to do a job through a type of *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* quiz game. Following the quiz, each child performed a job at the company. A special area was set up to allow the guests an opportunity to "stock inventory" and "pick orders." After all this "work," they were taken to see the "boss," who gave them "paychecks" (redeemable for souvenir goody bags) and told them about the "vacation" that they had earned.

In addition to visiting the series of job-related tour stops, the children hopped aboard a company truck to have their pictures taken and to learn about transporting product. They also watched a video of employees at work, and were introduced to the health-care products that are sold to Allegiance customers.

The day culminated with the children taking a "vacation" in a conference room decorated with tropical-colored crepe paper, a massive balloon arch, palm-tree cutouts, and beach balls. The children enjoyed the barbecue and dessert tables and had fun participating in various raffles. Some of the prizes included movie passes, gel pens, and notebooks. After lunch, limbo, hula-hoop, and piñata contests were held. Each guest received a personalized certificate of participation and a bag of goodies before calling it a day.

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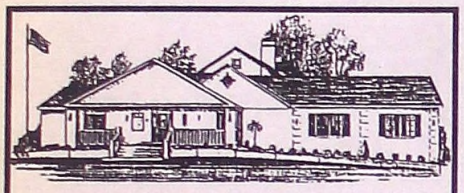

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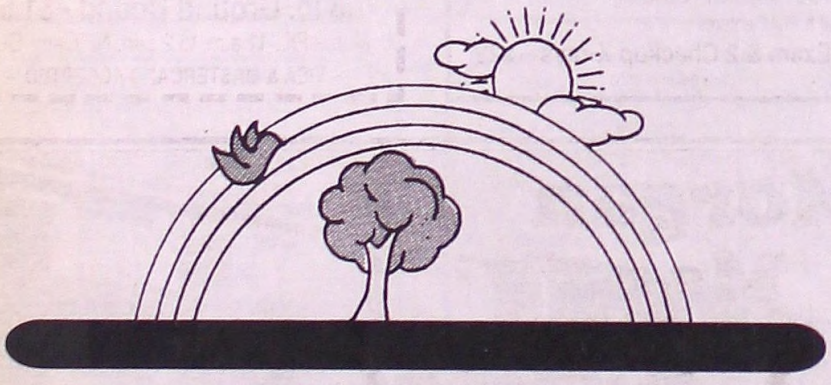

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# Sassy Seniors

*By Mary E. Clark*

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, please call 734-942-6852.)

**Rummage Sale Open To Public**

Kitchen and household items, clothing, craft items, books, kids' items, and more will be offered for sale at the Romulus Senior Center's annual rummage sale, set for Friday, May 19, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free space is still available to anyone, regardless of age, who would like to take part in the rummage sale.

**Seniors Invited To Audition**

Macomb Center for the Performing Arts is holding auditions for the 2000 Senior Showcase – "THE BEST" IS BACK – on Friday, May 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (accompanist provided).

This lavish musical extravaganza showcasing area senior citizens has been a favorite of Macomb Center audiences for 11 years. The production – directed by Marge Montross and produced by Larry Carrico – is open to any senior over the age of 55. Singing, dancing, comedy, and other talents will be represented.

Showcase performances are set for Thursday, July 13, at 7 p.m.; Friday, July 14, at 1 p.m.; and Saturday, July 15, at 7 p.m. All performances will be given at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

To schedule an appointment for an audition, please call 810-286-2141.

**Applications for Senior Olympics Are Now Available**

Seniors interested in participating in one or more of the events at this year's Downriver Senior Olympics should stop in at the Center and pick up an application.

**Special Trips**

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman at 734-942-6852.

- ***Soaring Eagle Casino/Show*** (May 24; $9);
- ***Bay Mills/Kewadin Casinos*** (July 20–21; $129); and
- ***New England (Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire)*** (September 17–23; $799).

**Regularly Scheduled Activities**

The Romulus Senior Center invites you to stop by on your own or bring a friend to take part in any of the following regularly scheduled programs:

- Ceramics (1 and 6 p.m. each Monday)
- Club #1 meetings (11 a.m. each Tuesday)
- Bunco (1 p.m. each Tuesday)
- Bingo (1 p.m. each Wednesday)
- Pinochle (6 p.m. each Wednesday and 1 p.m. each Thursday)
- Quilting (7 p.m. each Thursday).

For more information, please contact the Center.

**Grief Counseling**

A series of six grief-counseling sessions will be held at the Romulus Senior Center from 10 to 11:30 a.m. continues each Monday. Call the Center for more information.

**TeleCare Program Available**

The Romulus Senior Center's TeleCare program provides seniors with daily phone reassurance at no cost. To learn more, call the Center and ask to speak to Barb or Noel. They'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**Center Offers Transportation Service**

Round-trip transportation service within the Romulus city limits is available to local seniors each Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a fee of just $1. To make your reservation (no later than 2 p.m. on the day before the trip), please call 734-942-6852 during the Center's normal business hours.

**Indoor Walking**

The Romulus Senior Center travels to the nearest Wayne County Community College campus at 9:15 a.m. each Wednesday for an hour of safe, indoor walking. No preregistration necessary.

**Hot Lunch**

For just $1.50, Romulus seniors (age 60 and over) can enjoy a hot lunch at the Center any weekday at 11:30 a.m. Call the Romulus Senior Center at least 24 hours in advance.

**Volunteer Positions Open**

The Romulus Senior Center is always looking for friendly volunteers who would like to become more involved in the Center by helping to plan and execute its various programs.

To find out more about how you can give the priceless gift of caring, please contact Linda Norman, the Center's Program Coordinator. ❑

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